

Engineering Experiment Station

Extension Series No. 161

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Purdue University

Purdue University is one of the 68 land-grant colleges and universities that owe their origin to the Land-Grant Act of 1852, otherwise known as the Morrill Act. Three years after the act's passage, the General Assembly of Indiana voted to begin preliminary plans for a school devoted primarily to the agricultural and mechanical arts.

In 1869, the Assembly voted to accept a gift of land and money from John Purdue and other generous Lafayette citizens and, in appreciation, declared the name of the new institution to be Purdue University. The University is supported mainly by state appropriations, supplemented by federal grants.

Actual instruction began in 1874 with 39 students and a faculty of six. Today, Purdue University enrolls more than 58,000 students at the West Lafayette Campus, at regional campuses at Fort Wayne, Hammond, Westville and Indianapolis, and at nine Statewide Technology sites.

All instructional and research work is organized under a director for continuing education and under an academic dean for each of the following schools: School of Agriculture; School of Consumer and Family Sciences; School of Education; Schools of Engineering (including Aeronautics and Astronautics, Chemical, Civil, Electrical, Industrial, Materials, Mechanical, and Nuclear Engineering; the departments of Agricultural Engineering and Freshman Engineering; and the Division of Interdisciplinary Engineering Studies); School of Liberal Arts; School of Management; Schools of Pharmacy and Pharmacal Sciences, Nursing, and Health Sciences; School of Science; School of Technology; and, School of Veterinary Medicine.

Extensive experiment stations in both engineering and agriculture are maintained by the University. The Cooperative Extensive Service, through the county agents, services the entire state. A variety of courses is offered through the conferences and continuation services programs sponsored by the University.